

Remarks/Arguments

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Advisory Action of the Examiner mailed January 10, 2008. Currently, claims 1-47 remain pending. Claims 1-13, 20-23, and 30-47 have been rejected. Claims 14-19 and 24-29 have been objected to. Favorable consideration of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action of August 7, 2007, claims 14-19 and 24-29 were objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for designating claims 14-19 and 24-29 allowable subject matter. Independent claims 12 and 22 have been amended to incorporate limitations from the allowable claims as suggested by the Examiner. In addition, the disputed limitation to “each section having a thickness of less than 25µm” has been removed to further prosecution. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 12 and 22 are now allowable as currently presented and that claims 13, 15-21, 23, and 25-31 which depend from claims 12 and 22 and include significant additional limitations are also allowable.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-13, 20-23, and 30-47 were rejected under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by Huter et al. (U. S. Patent N. 6,511,496). After careful review, Applicant must respectfully traverse this rejection.

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Additionally, “[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). (MPEP § 2131). Accordingly, Huter et al. must teach each and every element in as complete detail as is contained in claims 1, 12, and 22, as is required for anticipation.

Applicant respectfully asserts that Huter et al. fails to teach each and every element of claims 1, 12, and 22. Nowhere does Huter et al. appear to teach, "each section having a thickness of less than 25 μ m", as recited in the pending claims.

Instead, Huter et al. appears to disclose, in the embodiment of col.7, lines 45-59 cited by the Examiner, a "polyurethane film of about 0.001 to about 0.005 inch thickness. As discussed earlier, about 0.001 inch is about 25.4 μ m which is close to, but does not disclose "less than 25 μ m" and so MPEP 2131.03, III and not an obviousness argument applies to the respective ranges in question. In view of the amendments to claims 12 and 22 to add allowable claim limitations as suggested by the Examiner as well as the cancellation of claims 1-11, 14, 24, and 32-47, the question is moot.

Additionally, for similar reasons, as well as others, claims 13, 15-21, 23, and 25-33, which depend from claims 12 and 22 respectively, and include significant additional limitations, are believed to be not anticipated by Huter et al. and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Conclusion

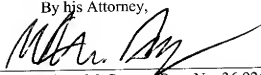
In view of the foregoing, all pending claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is anticipated. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his Attorney,

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